

SONS OF  
CONFEDERATE  
VETERANS

CAMP 1921

SEPTEMBER 2018

# The Tallassee Rifle



*He who feels no pride in his ancestors is unworthy to be remembered by his descendants.*

## Commander Comments

On Friday, October 5th and Saturday, October 6th, the Tallassee Armory Guards will be the beneficiary of the CDC Bar-B-Que. All members should sell at least one item. Tickets for Boston Butts, Ribs and Camp Stew will be available at the regular Camp 1921 meeting on Monday, September 24, 2018 and can also be obtained at WACQ Radio during regular business hours. Last year's CDC BBQ earned the camp \$2,500 and we need to equal that amount, are hopefully exceed it so we can begin work on our Confederate Soldier's Monument.

David Davidson always does a terrific job selling ads for the Battles for the Armory program, however we need members to help sell a few ads too. If everybody in the camp would just sell one ad, the profits would likely pay for all the expenses of producing the reenactment.

I have received many good comments on Dr. Tommy Daniel's presentation at the August meeting of Camp 1921. We all learned a great deal about how the South has influenced just about all of America's music. September's program is provided by David Davidson. One of his metal detecting buddies from the Birmingham area will do a

presentation on the many battle field and encampment artifacts he has found over the years.

As commander, I usually step forward and retain a speaker for the Annual Lee/Jackson Banquet and will gladly take care of this matter again for the upcoming event, however if any member has a recommendation for a speaker, please contact me within the next 30 days.

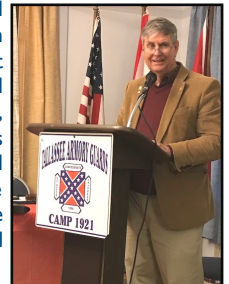
The Battles for the Armory Reenactment Committee met on September 6, 2018 at Fort Talisi. Again, we had a very successful meeting and a lot of progress was made. The School Day Committee reported that about 50 home-schoolers had been registered and public-school students from Lanett and Enterprise had registered. Reenactment Captain Marion Patrick has already had wood cutting and splitting parties at the battle site. Chris Tribble of the 53rd Alabama Cavalry reports larger than normal reenactor registrations, including several from the Georgia Division of Reenactors. School will be in session on Friday, November 9th and we expect a much larger "School Day," weather permitting! Over 200 "School Day" flyers were mailed out to schools within the last week.

There will be two Reenactment Committee Meetings in October on the 11th and 25th at 6PM at Fort Talisi.

Compatriot Ronnie Brantley reports that a post will be donated to help repair the Tallassee Armory Historical Marker that was knocked down at the west end of the Fitzpatrick Bridge recently. He hopes to have the repairs made and the marker back in place soon.

Thanks to Bob Taunton, Sam Benson, Tony McCarty and Rick Dorley for continuing to keep all the grass cut at Fort Talisi and the adjacent parade ground.

The Tallassee Armory Guards, SCV Camp 1921 will meet Monday, September 24, 2018. Larry Melvyn's Restaurant will cater supper beginning at 5:30PM at \$10 per plate and the meeting will be in promptly at 6:30PM. All members, their guests and prospective members are encouraged to attend.



Deo Vindice, Commander Randall Hughey

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## August Meetings



Dr. Tommy Daniel of Chattahoochee Valley Community College spoke on the South's Influence on America's Music at the August Meeting of Camp 1921



The 2018 Battles for the Armory Reenactment Committee has been working hard to organize this year's event.

## Why Vicksburg Canceled the Fourth of July – For a Generation

From May through early July 1863, Vicksburg, Mississippi, a strategically important city on the Mississippi River, was besieged by Federal forces under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant, and by a flotilla of gunboats in the river commanded by Admiral David Porter. The city was surrounded by outlying Confederate lines of defense, but the Union forces also shelled the city itself, which was full of civilians, who dug caves into the clay hills of Vicksburg for protection from the artillery bombardment. The siege lasted 47 days, until the city and its Confederate defenders were at last starved into submission. The Confederate commander, Gen. John C. Pemberton, surrendered on July 4, 1863. So bitter were the feelings and memories of the people of Vicksburg afterward that they did not officially observe the

Independence Day holiday for the next 81 years (not returning to its observance until 1945).

In his book *Vicksburg 1863*, published in 2010, historian Winston Groom noted the following: “From the river, Porter’s mortar boats kept up a regular bombardment of the city’s environs, while from landward Grant’s artillery relentlessly threw barrages of shells into the town. The shocking part of it was that much of the naval firing was deliberately aimed at the civilians.” (emphasis added)

Mary Longborough, a resident of Vicksburg, kept a diary that was later published as *My Cave Life in Vicksburg*. Her eyewitness accounts attest to many poignant incidents that occurred during the siege of the city:

“A young girl, becoming weary in the confinement of the cave, hastily ran to the house in the interval that

elapsed between the slowly falling shells. On returning, an explosion sounded near her—one wild scream, and she ran into her mother’s presence, sinking like a wounded dove, the life blood flowing over the light summer dress in crimson ripples from a death-wound in her side, caused by the shell fragment.”

“One afternoon, amid the rush and explosion of the shells, cries and screams arose—the screams of women amid the shrieks of the falling shells. The servant boy, George...found that a negro man had been buried alive within a cave, he being alone at that time. Workmen were instantly set to deliver him, if possible; but when found, the unfortunate man had evidently been dead some little time. His wife and relations were distressed beyond measure, and filled the air with their cries and groans.”

“A little negro child,

playing in the yard, had found a shell; in rolling and turning it, had innocently pounded the fuse; the terrible explosion followed, showing, as the white cloud of smoke floated away, the mangled remains of a life that to the mother’s heart had possessed all of beauty and joy.”

***“bitter were the feelings and memories of the people of Vicksburg.”***

“Sitting in the cave, one evening, I heard the most heartrending screams and moans. I was told that a mother had taken a child into a cave about a hundred yards from us; and having laid it on its little bed, as the poor woman believed, in safety, she took her seat near the entrance of the cave. A mortar shell came rushing through the air, and fell with much force, entering the earth above the sleeping child—cutting through into the cave—oh! most horrible sight to the mother—crushing in the upper part of the little sleeping head, and taking away the young innocent life without a look or word of passing love to be treasured in the mother’s heart.”

By Karen Stokes on Jul 2, 2014



<https://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/blog/why-vicksburg-canceled-the-fourth-of-july-for-a-generation/>



## Band Notes ..... *Whistlin' Dixie*



Confederate Flag Window Pane

"Whistlin' Dixie", the Camp 1921 String Band, is pleased to announce that Rev. Michael (Mike) McGrady has joined our group. Mike is from the Blue Ridge Mountains near Hillsville, Virginia, the very heart of old-time music. His calling as a minister has taken him to several states where he always finds a way to become immersed in the local music scene. He sings a strong tenor harmony in gospel quartets, and teaches traditional shaped-note singing. He is a multi-instrumentalist, playing several stringed instruments. He

will be playing bass fiddle for our group. He now lives in the Kent community with his wife, Leah, and is the pastor of Providence Primitive Baptist Church.

Give Mike a big welcome when you see him.

Now that we have a lawyer, a CPA, and a minister in our group, all we need is an undertaker. Joe Jeffcoat, are you interested?

Bob Taunton



Whistlin' Dixie Entertains at Ft Dixie

TALLASSEE  
ARMORY GUARDS

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Place Address Sticker Here

### 2018 Dates to Remember

- September 24 ~ Regular Tallassee Armory Guards Meeting
- Oct. 6 ~ CDC BBQ Fundraiser for Camp 1921 (New venue is Tallassee City Hall)
- October 22 ~ Regular Tallassee Armory Guards Meeting
- November 9, 10 & 11 ~ Battles for the Armory Reenactment, Tallassee
- November 26 ~ Regular Tallassee Armory Guards Meeting
- December 10 ~ Tallassee Armory Guards Annual Christmas Social
- January 28 ~ Lee/Jackson Banquet